

Medicare

Referring to page 886 of the *Votes and Proceedings* of October 20 last, we notice that the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard), seconded by the member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire), had asked to move the following amendment to the motion for second reading of this bill:

That all the words after "That" be deleted and replaced by the following:

"this house, although of the opinion that the necessary steps should be taken to ensure that appropriate medical services are made available to all Canadians, nevertheless believes that no legislation providing for insured medical services in Canada would be adequate unless it provides for a system of fiscal compensation for any province desiring to set up its own autonomous medical insurance plan."

The Chair feels that this amendment contains essentially the same question as the amendment the hon. member for Lapointe now asks leave to move.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) seemed to indicate this was not a major reason to rule the amendment out of order. The Chair takes the liberty of drawing his attention to citation 194 of *Beauchesne* which stipulates the following: A motion or amendment cannot be brought forward which is the same in substance as a question which has already been decided, because a proposition being once submitted and carried in the affirmative or negative cannot be questioned again but must stand as the judgment of the house.

For those reasons, the Chair regrets to rule the proposed amendment out of order.

Shall clause 3 carry?

Carried.

[*English*]

Clause agreed to.

On clause 4—*Criteria to be satisfied by plan in respect of which contribution payable.*

The Deputy Chairman: Before we proceed with this clause, may I ask the committee whether it intends to proceed subclause by subclause and paragraph by paragraph, instead of considering the clause as a whole?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, I have two amendments that I wish to move to clause 4. I have no objection to the procedure you outlined, but perhaps my colleague the Associate Minister of National Defence could move the amendments.

[*The Deputy Chairman.*]

My first amendment is really a change in verbiage because the principle was accepted yesterday by the house and it may not raise an important issue. The amendment is:

That clause 4 of Bill No. C-227 be amended by substituting the expression "contribution commencement day" for the expression "1st day of July, 1967" where it appears in paragraph (c) of subclause (1) thereof.

It is the same point, really.

Mr. Knowles: We are still against it.

Mr. MacEachen: I appreciate that, but I was hopeful that the opposition would not be so eloquent as yesterday. As I say, it is the same point, and if this amendment can be moved and disposed of I have another amendment which may be of greater interest to the committee. Could I have this first amendment moved?

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, where do we stand with regard to the suggestion made by the Chair and the suggestion which now comes from the Minister of National Health and Welfare? I may say that I have an amendment to move to clause 4 as well. It is no secret what it is; my amendment would be that clause 4 be amended by deleting therefrom subclause (2). The minister says he has another amendment and the hon. member for Simcoe East told the committee a few days ago that he had two or three amendments. Are these amendments which we are making to the clause as a whole or to the subclauses or paragraphs? Could we have the direction of the Chair?

The Deputy Chairman: Following the remarks made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre we will proceed to subclause (1) and I will ask whether consideration of this subclause has terminated. We will then proceed to paragraph (a) and then the amendment can be moved as the question presents itself.

Has consideration of part 1 of clause 4 terminated?

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, when you say part 1 you are simply referring to the six lines at the bottom of page 2 of the bill?

The Deputy Chairman: Exactly.

Mr. Knowles: In other words, the preambulatory part of this clause.

The Deputy Chairman: I will now call paragraph (a).

On paragraph (a)—